



**M-4
Qualification,
see Page 12A**

**Black History
spotlight,
see Page 4A**

**Wild West
Night, see
Page 1B**



Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

2nd Plt, C Trp., 3/7 Cav. dismounts from a Bradley and moves towards its first position. with a mission to capture or kill as many high value targets as possible.

Soldier lost in Iraq

The Department of Defense announced Monday the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pvt. Matthew T. Zeimer, 18, of Glendive, Mont. died Feb. 2 in Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries sustained when he came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire.

He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. A field artillery fire support specialist, Zeimer entered the Army in May 2006. He arrived at Fort Stewart in December. **See story, page 10A.**

New Hunter youth center opens

Kurt Wolfe
Hunter Public Affairs

Terri McMillan, serves as director for the new Hunter Army Airfield's School Age and Youth Services facility. The center opened its doors to children from first grade through 18 years of age Jan. 16.

The newer and much larger building will last at least six years until a new permanent facility is built, and has a capacity for 100 children. The Youth Services Facility operates under the auspices of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"This may be a temporary facility," said McMillan, "but we provide wonderful programs for both before and after school needs. The children that we serve used to be called latchkey kids, but now they are called school age services children. It's a big difference. We provide full after school programs, summer programs, for the whole installation. We have a lot more space that we use to have. Our staff is

made up of loving and caring facilitators that all have the training and backgrounds necessary to work with children of all ages."

The facility offers a wide range of services to children and teens. The center has arts and crafts, computer science, homework assistance, outside play, sports and fitness, and cooking activities.

Danial Graham, 12, is a student at the center. He does his homework and plays at various activities. He comes to the center every weekday, both before and after school hours. Danial wants to be a chef when he grows up, and on this day he is researching recipes on the internet while others his age are engrossed in video games. Danial's father works on Apache helicopters and is currently deployed in Iraq. He will be returning home in three months.

"I miss him very much," says Danial, "and I can't wait until he comes back." Danial is preparing for that day at the Youth Center. Today he is researching

fried zucchini recipes as part of a full dinner he is planning as a surprise for the day his father gets home. Adults and other teens are helping him prepare and lending him encouragement. While many activities are ongoing, some are in the planning stages.

"We have classes like Tai Kwan Do, dance, gymnastics, tumbling and piano," McMillan said. "We are also taking suggestions from parents as to classes they might like to have. We will eventually have sports and cheerleading activities here at the facility."

The program works in concert with a sister program at Fort Stewart and is nationally accredited through the National After-School Association. The Youth Services Facility is open Monday through Friday at Hunter Army Airfield, and is available for the children of active duty military and retirees, Department of the Army Contractors and civilian employees. Children must be registered with child and youth services. For further information call 315-5708 or 315-2089.



Master Sgt. Rodney Williams

Special Troops Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert congratulates Sgt. Kirk Stickley of 92nd Chem for his induction into the NCO Corps

Sustainment Bde inducts NCOs

Master Sergeant Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs

January 26 officially marked the start of a new chapter for 14 non-commissioned officers assigned to Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade. During the ceremony at Club Stewart, each Non-commissioned Officer was officially inducted into the NCO Corps.

"This NCO induction ceremony is part of the non-commissioned officer professional development," said the STB Command Sergeant Major Robert Tolbert. "It begins the process of being a better leader and professional in today's Army."

Shortly after the entrance of the official party, a visual representation of the military uniform, past and present took the spotlight.

"The ceremony was well organized," said Sgt. Jennifer Lacina, STB. "I especially liked when the different uniforms throughout the Army's history were presented."

"I think the ceremony is something the inductees will go home and talk about," said First Sergeant Cheryl Greene, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion. "When they become senior non-commissioned officers they will want to take part in this."

This was the first NCO Induction ceremony for the unit since it was redesignated as the 3rd Sustainment Bde., STB.

"I'm very proud to be a member of the NCO Corps," said Sgt. Thomas Derr, senior computer system administrator for the Brigade. "I've worked very hard in my section so this is a culmination of everything that I joined the Army to do."

The STB Command Sergeant Major presented each inductee with framed copies of the NCO Charge and the NCO Creed as well as the Non-Commissioned Officer Guide.

"They (the inductees) must now earn the trust and confidence from their Soldiers," Tolbert said. "They are now part of a time honored corps and must represent it well."

Once called forward, each inductee marched up to the "line of authority" and prepared to step through the arch of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps.

"It's like your first step into something larger," added Derr. "This is something I can look forward to being a part of as a sponsor for my soldiers."

"Now they are in the Corps, they are non-commissioned officers and should feel a sense of pride," Greene said. "There is pride in the rank you are now wearing on your chest."

For some of the inductees the ceremony was a little overdue but well worth the wait.

"I feel like I have now been brought into the arms of the NCO Corps," Lacina said. "I've been an NCO for a year and will continue to mentor my Soldiers and improve myself as a Non-Commissioned Officer."



Cutting through the tax tape at Stewart

Spc. Rebecka Reyes

Fort Stewart Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr and Staff Judge Advocate Col. Norman Allen, cut the ribbon to the new Marne Tax Center Feb. 5, which is located at bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area on Fort Stewart. The center will provide free tax assistance to Soldiers, family members and retirees. For more information, call 767-3694 at Stewart or 315-3675 at Hunter.

Marne 6 Sends Teamwork is essential for leaders, Soldiers

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

As I write this, we are over 130 days without a fatality due to motor vehicle incidents. We have made great strides with safety. This is not a time to boast. Be aware. Tragedy is always just one mistake away.

In the coming days and weeks, more and more of the division will deploy to Iraq. The risks increase but we can handle it.

We have an important mission and we must succeed. To do so we'll need to carry forward our record of excellence in safety.

One great reason for our success here is teamwork.

As I look across this magnificent division I find excellent examples of teamwork. In particular I think of our tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and aircraft crews.

Think about it: Each person is focused on their duty, dependent on the other to succeed, expertly trained, and determined to win.

Likewise, every crewman recognizes that their machine is deadly. Each has a healthy

respect for it and they train and operate their vehicles properly to accomplish a mission without jeopardizing a member of the team.

Each crewman has a role to play and we can learn from them.

Their practices are worthy of emulation. In fact, we should adopt them across the division for every type of vehicle on and off duty.

Let's look at a few practices of a successful team and crew.

The first practice is leadership. A tank commander always emphasizes safety to his crewmembers. The 'TC' is experienced and positioned at the right place all the time just as a leader should be. He sets the example and holds each person to the Army's standard.

Leaders owe it to their Soldiers to ensure that their vehicles and personnel are equipped for all potential weather condi-



tions at all times of day. They read maps, allow time, provide resources and look for trouble spots, both enemy and terrain. Leaders mitigate risks.

Senior vehicle occupants, like the tank commander I described earlier, and leaders at every level should constantly anticipate dangers. Leaders must always be at the right place at the right time.

Another practice is continuous training. Crew drills are practiced regularly.

The loss of one man can render the tank ineffective. Others may have to step up. Each must understand their task and be fully trained to perform their task under the most difficult conditions.

Recognize risks and respect your vehicle. It has no conscience and it will not forgive a mistake. Practice roll over drills. Rehearse reactions to hazards.

Refer to and practice the procedures in technical manuals for equipment. When we make thoughtful decisions and adhere to standards good things happen. Soldiers should hold each other accountable.

The next practice is to always be alert. When a tank is rolling down the highway or across open terrain, each member of the crew is focused and continuously communicating to the others. Each is on the lookout for the enemy and potential dangers.

As you're rolling down the literal and figurative highway of life here and in Iraq, remain vigilant. Constant communication is essential.

The highways of Iraq, Kuwait, and Georgia can be dangerous and every passenger and operator needs to be focused on the task at hand, safe arrival at our next destination.

Leaders leading, continuous training, always remain alert. Here is the formula for great teams and crews. We, your family, unit, and nation, need each and every Soldier to do his and her part on our coming deployment. Safety first and ROCK OF THE MARNE!

CG: Presidents remembered for strength, discipline, spirit

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

On Feb. 19, the 3rd Infantry Division will join the nation and honor two of America's greatest Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

We honor these great men for their countless contributions to our nation and for their unparalleled influence on America.

Throughout their lives each man, through their strength of character and determination of spirit, left a legacy of freedom and democracy that deeply enriches our quality of life today.

Many of our Soldiers, civilians, and their families will take advantage of this holiday to travel outside the local area to visit family and friends.

I encourage Leaders to stay 100% engaged with their Soldiers travel plans and to be cognizant of the temptation for a Soldier to drive too far on leave/pass in the last few weeks before deploying.

We must also be mindful of the threat posed by aggressive drivers. These drivers can present a very serious hazard as they dart in and out of traffic,

speed, tailgate, run stop signs and red lights, and display rude behavior directed towards other drivers. When dealing with aggressive drivers, exercise restraint, be courteous, and follow the rules of the road.

Leaders are reminded of the requirement to conduct safety briefings for all unit personnel that include highway safety, seat belt usage, fatigue avoidance, the consequences of drinking and driving, as well as adverse weather precautions.

We have a responsibility to ensure our Soldiers are aware of these hazards as well as the risk reduction measures that are available.

This holiday, let us reflect and pay tribute to Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln for their dedicated service to our nation.

Each brought strength and discipline in our country during times of great difficulty and strife.

I hope each of you enjoy a safe and happy weekend and display the same strength and discipline in your own lives.

Our goal is to celebrate Presidents' Day and continue our deployment operations in a safe manner.

Take care and God Bless.

A Snapshot from Fort Stewart's Museum Archives

To develop long-range military cooperation with Russia through exchange visits and combined training events that could build a post-Cold War relationship based on mutual trust and a closer understanding of each other, The U.S. Third Infantry Division and the 27th Guards Motorized Rifle Division of the Russian Federation jointly trained at Totskoye, Russia 2 - 10 September 1994 in a combined peacekeeping training program called Peacekeeper - 94. Russian officials also made a handful of visits to American soil during the friendly mission.

U.S. Army Photographs are Compliments of the Fort Stewart Museum
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Sgt. Ben Brody

Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, race to a waiting 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment Blackhawk after completing a raid at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 24. The exercise was part of 3rd Brigade Combat Team's trainup for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.



Photos by Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, C Troop 3-7 Cav. dismounts from a Bradley and moves towards their first position. Crazy Troop’s mission was to capture or kill as many high value targets as possible. From left to right: Sgt. John Whipple, Pfc. Brady Syphus, Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Faulkner and Pvt. Robert Brian.

3/7 practices urban warfare, preps for deployment



C Troop 3/7 Cav. Soldiers conduct an after action review after the first dry run of their training mission.

3/7 Cav soldiers face challenge to operate in congested areas during training in special buildings

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau
2nd BCT Public Affairs

The town’s quiet, sunny day was suddenly disturbed as tanks, Bradleys, Humvees and an Apache helicopter roared in out of the surrounding woods, Tuesday on Fort Stewart.

Within seconds, Soldiers pouring out of Bradleys, assumed strategic positions, searched houses and secured the area.

The cordon and search as well as the mount and dismount drills went very well, said Capt. Ian Claxton, commander of C Troop, 3/7 Cavalry. They are part of the Spartan Focus training we have been doing all week.

Everyone moved quickly and decisively, said Claxton, who also pointed out that there is always room for improvement during the after action review with his troops.

There are two groups of Soldiers; those who have already been deployed and the new recruits, he said.

“My veterans are focused on leading and training the new Soldiers,” he said. “They are awesome. I am proud to be their leader.

“One of the core objectives of the exercise is that it acts as a confidence builder,” he said. “Some of the soldiers are straight out of Basic Combat

Training and they finally get a chance to actually handle the fighting machines, conduct live fire, and learn how to work in an integrated operation with air attack, field artillery, dismount and mount, etc.”

One challenge our Soldiers may encounter is to operate in congested areas in Iraq, he said. For that purpose, with the feedback of previously deployed veterans, the town where the training was conducted, was built.

Another challenge our Soldiers encounter in Iraq is the language barrier, said Claxton. As part of the overall training we also teach basic, yet crucial words and customs that will help them operate in Iraq.

Motivation has been high from the start, said section leader Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Faulkner. “If anything, my challenge is to slow my team down. They are 100% ready to go and fired up. They are good men with their minds and hearts in the right place.”

“The training is pertinent to the process of rebuilding Iraq,” he said.

His team’s objective here today was to capture or kill high value targets in the simulated Iraqi town, said Faulkner.

“My Soldiers did very well. If we had to deploy today we’d be ready. God bless America.”



C Troop, 3/7 Cav. launches an integrated mission of Bradleys, tanks, humvees and an Apache helicopter. One purpose of the training is to learn how to effectively move in a congested town area and how to operate with a combined force or field artillery, helicopters, scouts, life fire and mortars, said Capt. Ian Claxton, commander of C Troop3/7 Cav.

Unique Army position filled by Soldier in third rotation to Stewart



Jennifer Scales
Command Information Assistant

Deputy garrison commander for transformation – it’s a mouth full. But there are only 12 installations throughout the whole U.S. Army that have one. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have been fortunate to get such a major attainment in the persona of Lt. Col. John R. Platt.

“With the Army undergoing restructuring and modularity, the engineer brigades went away within all the divisions. As a result of the loss, this one position became critical that needed to be filled, so the Corps of Engineers pulled it under their wing,” explained Platt. “We took the position up under the Corps and decided to fill them all,” said Platt. A few have been coded as lieutenant colonels while the rest will be filled by colonels.

The DGCT is in a learning curve as it is the first type of its kind here at Stewart and Hunter. “I have also been reaching out to other installations that actually have their deputies on board. The common ground I have found is that as we struggle to get our arms wrapped around what the DGCT does, they are all doing something slightly different at each installation,” said Platt.

Some DGCT’s are serving as executive officers. One is currently focused primarily on the construction efforts. But here, Platt is grasping

all of it. “I have been given guidance on certain things to go out and get a feel for, such as relocation of units in the respect of how they can be placed at different locations, which is no small nut to crack,” said Platt. Because of Base Realignment and Closure, there are units which have got to move. Stewart and Hunter have units that have been identified to arrive, so now it’s a matter of figuring out exactly what they need to get here.

“You always have people doing their piece, such as getting facilities squared away, trainers making sure we have ranges to support incoming units, even the personnel aspect to make sure we have the support required everyone coming in here,” said Platt

Platt further discussed the new army concept.

“The Army is centered on the brigade combat team concept since the army is no longer deploying divisions as a whole. Modularity consisted of bringing the BCT together so that they could deploy into any environment needed. This makes it easy for the Army to actually fill all of its requirements around the globe. It’s easier to tell a BCT that now that you have the training, and equipment, we can now pack up those individuals as a team.”

It reminds him of when he was a lieutenant in the cavalry.

“I thought they were the best thing the Army could have because it was like a Cracker Jack box. Once all the pieces were dumped in and shaken up, you come up with a nice mix of peanuts and sweet coated popcorn. You get all of that good stuff coming out of the same box and it fits well together.”

“Previously there was never any one ‘belly button’ to push,” began Platt, “that had overall oversight. And that is where the DGCT fits in as the person to whom the garrison commander can come to find out what’s going on with

issues and run the ground for him. It frees him up to do more garrison business instead of staff actions and staff work.”

Along his 19 year trek in the military, there have been various influences in Platt’s path. Growing up he watched his father, John Platt, Jr., put on his Air Force uniform and go off to serve his country. “I was so proud watching him and I just knew that I wanted to wear one also. My mother, Mary, motivated me to go to college, which I did and got commissioned at South Carolina State,” said Platt.

“I can even look early on into my military career as a young lieutenant when my very first platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st class Dow, gave me the ‘1-2-3’ on how life was in the military and what I was suppose to be doing. My very first driver, a young Private 1st Class showed me how to do the preventive maintenance and checks on my APC. He handed me the training manual said, ‘get busy’. From that point up until now, there is always someone at every duty station who is going to motivate you to do better for one reason or another,” said Platt.

Being a huge sports fan, especially of the National Football League, Platt has made a special Cowboys lounge set up in his home in Richmond Hill to relax when he is there. He also likes to let the wind hit his ‘hair’ when he rides his Harley.

Platt and his wife Monica of 18 years have two small children and he takes note to spending quality versus quantity time with the family.

“It’s not the quantity time that we are going to get wearing the uniform. I try to spend as much quality time with them as I can. I believe some service members have come to grips with it, and others have not quite gotten it down, but they need to. We may not get but one day out of the week to spend with them, so it’s best that you make the most of your one

day.”

Platt believes that some military persons tend to forget and not realize that spouses who are left behind during deployments become independent and can do many things. They don’t have to be held by the hand. “They are resilient enough to get out and do those things they need to do.”

His wife Monica is a case in point. Platt came home one cold brisk December from Germany some 18 years ago, got married and had only two weeks to spend with her before he had to return back to duty in Germany.

Monica was determined to be her husband, and next thing he knew she was calling him to let him know she was getting on the plane. After picking her up at the airport and showing her around the kaserne, he left the next day for 45 days in the field.

Being in a foreign country not knowing the language and without a driver’s license, he was surprised upon his return from duty to see that she had acquired a job and a driver’s license. Then during his first assignment at Stewart, he left her here so that she could acquire her master’s degree while he went on to Alabama. They maintained their marriage in a seven-hour one-way commute.


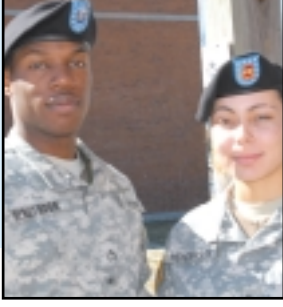




Platt is happy to be assigned back to Stewart a third time, with others being in Alabama, Oklahoma, Korea, Italy, and Germany. This time he finds himself in a non-deployable position. He returned from a 26-month tour in Kuwait in October. But if asked to deploy with the division now, Platt replied,

“I would pack my rucksack tomorrow and gladly do it. Number one, because I love what I do and I love wearing the uniform. Number two, because I know that when I pack and leave, I don’t have to worry about the family I am leaving behind because I know they are squared away and will be taken care of.”



Jennifer Scales
Lt. Col. John Platt, deputy garrison commander for transformation, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, corresponds with one of the other 11 DGCT counterparts in the U.S. Army.

Marne Voices Speak Out To whom do you want to send Valentine’s Day wish?

<p>“Happy Valentine’s Day to my wife, Geneva, and grand-daughters in Edgefield, South Carolina.”</p> <p>Staff Sgt. Warren Chinn Jr. <i>121st Eng. Co., CSE</i></p>		<p>“To our mothers, Nancy Hugo in Illinois and Laraine Henderson in North Carolina.”</p> <p>Pfc. Marcus, Pvt. Monique Henderson <i>In-processing Center, 3rd Inf. Div.</i></p>		<p>"Happy Valentine's Day to my wife, Amber, in North Carolina."</p> <p>Pvt. Richard Brown <i>In-processing Center</i></p>	
	<p>“Happy Valentines day to my daughter StanKeisha, Barbara Rice and all my friends.”</p> <p>Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Highsmith <i>Regional Training Site, Ft. Stewart</i></p>		<p>“Happy Valentine’s Day to my wife Valerie. I love you. Thank you for all your support. “</p> <p>Sgt. 1st Class Walter Moore <i>3rd STB, 3rd Inf. Div.</i></p>		<p>"Happy Valentine's day to my mom, Angela Rider, in San Bernadino, Calif. "</p> <p>Pvt. Elias Dickson <i>In-processing Center</i></p>

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Hunter's new garrison command sergeant major ready to support everyone



Command Sgt. Maj. Aarons

Jennifer Scales
Public Affairs Office

ment. He wants to emphasize the importance of not waiting until the last minute with any issue, problem, or concern.

When Aarons arrived at Hunter last June, he was originally slated for a position in one of two aviation units. For one reason or another, neither was available for him. That's when the outgoing garrison command sergeant major approached him to apply for the position. Aarons had to go through the process by resume and an interview, as such is the case when vying for positions at the brigade or higher level.

"You take care of the Soldiers and family members in a battalion sergeant major position.

Then you have to go to outside agencies for additional support. As garrison sergeant major, the role is pretty much the same, but you have much more impact at this level and are in a position to help the battalion, brigade and even the commander take care of the Soldiers and family members," said Aarons.

Before this second assignment back at Hunter, Aarons was a battalion sergeant major in Giebelstadt, Germany.

His nearly 30-year stint in the U.S. Army also includes assignments to Fort Campbell, Fort Bliss, Fort Sill, Fort Eustis, Korea, and Japan.

"When I came into the U.S. Army in 1977, I wanted to work on airplanes. I came in as a UH-1H helicopter repairman, and have worked in the field of aviation my entire career," said Aarons.

Born in St. Mary, Jamaica West Indies, Aarons enlisted in the military from Stamford, Conn.

While attending the Norwalk Community College there, he met up with friends who had graduated ahead of him and chosen the Army way of life. He liked what he heard and followed suit. The rest is history.

Another incentive was the opportunity to finish college. "I was a crew chief and the \$55 hazardous pay was a lot back in the seventies, so I chose the money.

But one of my platoon sergeants got me back on track by reminding me about my education, so I started correspondence courses and subsequently enrolled back in college. I implore all young Soldiers to continue on with their education, no matter what stage of the military they find themselves in," Aarons said.

Aaron continued on his philosophy to young Soldiers.

He advises them to stay competitive, seek education, and compete with peers, like Soldier of the Month. "You can't just sit down and think that something is going to come to you.

You have to earn and show that you really want it. Give 110 percent to whatever task you are given. Accomplish all your duties. And by all means stay out of trouble."

There are three people that Aarons credits with the result of man and Soldier he is today—his mother, his wife, and his sister.

The late Florence Aarons, his mother, had a lot to do with his joining the Army.

On those rough days, he would call her and she would remind him that life was just as tough on the outside of the military as it was on the inside, maybe tougher.

His wife of over 28 years has been his motivational partner throughout his Army career.

Their son Andrew is a junior at the University of Dubuque in Iowa, studying to become a commercial jet pilot.

Daughters Sade and Simona reside in Savannah, with Simona attending Windsor

Forest High School.

Their 21-month-old grandson Shelmon probably also keeps Aarons motivated in his own special way.

And his older sister Jasnieth Harvey of the West Indies instilled in him the fortitude to study and get his education.

"I lived with her from the time I was four years old until about my junior year. She was strict and well educated. I remember being able to watch television only on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. During the week, it was strictly books," said Aarons.

Before he was due to leave for one of his many deployments to Afghanistan, Aarons recalled how his sister wanted him to come visit her before he left. "I was in Germany at the time and she sent me a round-trip ticket. So for three days I went home to be with her."

Soccer is one of the interests Aarons enjoys when the opportunity presents itself. Playing the game that is, more so than watching it. He also likes to work on cars and spending quality time at home with family.

So go ahead and knock-knock. When Aarons says "Who is there?" You know that you are fully welcome and can bring up any issue at any time with him.



Photos by Jennifer Scales

Open since early morning, Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton G. Aarons, Hunter garrison command sergeant major, reviews items already on his daily agenda.

Justice Served



Military Justice

Magistrate Court

Female, age 27, guilty of DUI. Sentence: 12 months probation, one day jail, 40 hours community service, \$25 court cost.

Female, age 33, guilty of driving w/suspended license. Sentence: \$250 fine; \$25 court cost

Adverse Administrative Actions

OMPF Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses:

Private, 1/41 FA, BAC .110

Staff Sergeant, 3/3 Avn., BAC .113

Specialist, 3 BSB, BAC .092

Private second class, 1/75 Rgr, BAC .132

Locally Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses:

Private First Class, STB, BAC .116

Specialist, 3 BSB, BAC .096

Ask the Judge: AD VALOREM TAX

Capt. Brendan Cronin
Legal Assistance Attorney

What is the Ad Valorem tax I have to pay?

Essentially, an Ad Valorem tax is a personal property tax, the State of Georgia assesses against every resident. They levy this tax against you each year when you register your vehicle in the State. Meaning when you go to the Department of Motor Vehicles and apply for a Georgia License plate and tags, the Georgia State Tax Commissioner's Office is levy a tax against you for each and every vehicle you own.

How much is the tax?

There is no set amount. The amount of the tax is determined by the value of your vehicle. If you own a vehicle worth \$25,000, then the Ad Valorem tax will be higher then if you own a vehicle worth \$1,000.

As a Soldier, do I have to pay this tax?

It depends! If you are a Soldier and a resident of Georgia, YES you must pay the Ad Valorem tax. If you are not a resident of Georgia, NO you do not have to pay the tax.

How do I know if I'm a resident of Georgia, I mean I live in Georgia because I'm stationed at Fort Stewart?

It's very simple to tell if you are a resident of Georgia. The easiest way to tell if you are resident of Georgia is to look at your latest end of the month Leave and Earnings Statement (LES).

This will tell you what state you claim as residency. In other words, what state you are from and/or what state you are paying state income taxes, too.

I've heard some states don't make you pay income taxes?

Yes, some states don't require Soldiers to pay income taxes while they are serving on active duty in the United States Armed Services. You must have some connect (driver's license, registered to vote, owe real estate, licensed to drive, or your home of record) to the state you want to claim as your state of residence.

So, if I'm from Illinois, how do I get out of paying the Ad Valorem tax when I get Georgia license plates on my car?

It's easy! You must come to the Legal Assistance Office, located at 373 Hase Road, Bldg 50A with your Military ID card and a copy of your latest, end-of-the-month LES. Ask the paralegal for an Ad Valorem waiver or a Form 941. Show the LES and ID card to the paralegal and they will give you the form to fill out. Make sure you know the County in which you lived in the state you claim as your residence.

What if I deploy, can my spouse register the car with an Ad Valorem Waiver form?

Only if your spouse has a General Power of Attorney or a Special Power of Attorney to Register a Motor Vehicle, a copy of the service members, latest end-of-the-month LES, and a Military ID Card.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Yes.

• **First**, a Service Member can not state on the Ad Valorem Waiver Form he is a resident of Georgia. This defeats the purpose of the Ad Valorem Waiver since you can NOT get out of

paying the tax if you are a resident of Georgia.

• **Second**, a leased vehicle is NOT exempt from the Ad Valorem tax. In other words, if a service member is leasing a vehicle, the service member MUST pay the Ad Valorem tax.

• **Third**, the service member must be the owner of the vehicle. If the spouse of a service member is the only person listed as the owner of the vehicle on the title of the car, then the service member may not use an Ad Valorem Waiver form for their spouse's vehicle. Additionally, only one jointly (both service member and spouse names appear on the title) owned vehicle per service member may be registered with the Ad Valorem Wavier. If the vehicle is jointly titled in the service member and in anyone else's name other than the spouse (brother, sister, mother, father, etc.) then the service member can not get the tax levy waived.

Furthermore, please do not be rude or disruptive when registering your vehicle with the tag office.

Their employees are just doing their job and must follow rules.

If you have a problem, listen to what the employee tells you and then come to Legal Assistance and we try to fix the problem together.

As always, when dealing with any kind of legal issues, you best option is to consult with a JAG Attorney in the Legal Assistance Office.

For more information on this subject, visit our office at 373 Hase Rd.

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Lenten Feb. 21 - April 7

Fort Stewart Lenten Schedule begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21: Mass at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.: Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion, 11:45 a.m. every Friday of Lent. Daily Mass 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hunter Army Airfield Lenten Schedule begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21: Mass at 11:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.: Stations of the Cross, followed by soup supper Fridays of Lent at 6:30 p.m.

Stewart Briefs

Sergeants Major Association

The 3rd Inf. Div. SMA will hold a meeting, 4-5 p.m., Feb. 22 at the Hinesville Veterans of Foreign Wars post. A low country boil will follow. Contact your major support command command sergeant major by Feb. 9 to RSVP. The uniform is duty or civilian casual.

Highways 119, 144 traffic alert

Motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving on Fort Stewart, specifically Georgia Highways 119 and 144. Due to increased training through Monday, motorists are urged to use extra caution and be aware of possible vehicle and Soldier road crossings.

College graduation registration

All Soldiers, family members, and civilians who plan to graduate or who are close to graduating in May of this year, should contact their school for deadlines and procedures for applying to attend the Fort Stewart graduation May 17.

If you are a potential Central Texas College graduate you must contact the college by today. Graduates from any and all colleges, not just the local institutions, are encouraged to attend. Deadline dates will vary from school to school. With some schools, you have to apply in early February.

Troops-to-teachers sought

Bill Kirkland, Program Manager for the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program and Spouse to Teachers Program, will be available to answer questions at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 11 a.m., Feb. 28. The program provides eligible Soldiers up to \$10,000 to become public school teachers.

Under the Spouse to Teachers Programs, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state certification tests up to a total of \$600.

Installation BOSS Meeting

The Installation Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will hold a meeting at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at Rockys the Disco Room. The meeting is for Brigade and Battalion Representatives and features Sergeant Major Darrell Jordan, G-4, Special Troops Battalion. For more information, call BOSS president Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon at 767-5119.

Contractor ID Cards

Effective Feb. 5 the office which issues Contractor identification cards at Fort Stewart will be relocated to Mower Processing Center, Bldg 208. Hours for that operation will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All contract personnel at Fort Stewart who need to be issued new contractor ID cards and/or renewals should report to that location. For further information please call 767-8895/8896.

New barber shop available

The barber shop at Bldg. 419, next to the furniture store, is now open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 876-0934.

Hunter Briefs

Hunter Tax Center

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to

prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Soldiers, family members and retirees are eligible for this service.

Your tax return will be filed electronically and you will receive your refund within approximately seven to 10 days. The Tax Center opens Monday and remains open through April 16.

The Hunter Tax Center is located at Bldg. 1211 (Hunter Legal Center). The hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the Hunter Tax Center at 315-3675

Spouses' Club luncheon

Wine, dine and dance at the Hunter Spouses' Club Luncheon 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 13, at the Hunter Club.

Enjoy an Italian meal topped off with chocolate-covered cherries for dessert.

Local wine vendors will be present to provide tasting treats while dance instructors teach the art of Salsa dancing. Proceeds go to the Savannah Area Family Emergency Safe Shelter. Please RSVP to hunter_spouses_club@yahoo.com, or call 925-1687.

Hunter Boy Scout Troop

Scouting builds character, trains in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

The Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America aspires to establish a Boy Scout Troop on Hunter Army Airfield.

boys (and their parents) ages 10-18 interested in joining the Boy Scouts can learn more about this opportunity at Hunter Army Airfield by attending the meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, in Hunter's Garrison Headquarters Conference Room. For more information, call John Petrillo at 547-1699.



Stewart ——— Massage-for-two raffle

Enter to win a service at the Savannah Day Spa.

Bring your special someone to enjoy this relaxing experience Feb. 5 – 12.

The winner will be notified Feb. 13. To sign up visit Southern Oaks Community Center or Liberty Woods leasing office.

Twister Mania

Right hand on red! It's your favorite party-game that tests your balance and flexibility. With several twister matches going on simultaneously, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 3, who the last ones standing and win the prizes? Sign-up at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Ladies Breakfast

Ladies, come meet your neighbor and fellow community members 9-10:30 a.m., Feb. 12 over breakfast at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Also, benefit from some handy around the house maintenance tips provided by a GMH Maintenance Technician.

BINGO

Join GMH for a Valentines Day edition of BINGO. Play for a chance to win some "sweet" prizes 4-5 p.m. Feb. 14 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Pen Pal Club

Our monthly meeting is here again. New members

please feel free to join and make a new friend 3-4 p.m. at Southern Oaks Community Center to share letters.

Mother, Daughter Tea

It's tea time! Mom bring your daughter 4-5 p.m. Feb. 23 to our old fashioned tea party just like the ones you had as a girl.

Let them dress up in their favorite high heels, hat and pearls! Hot tea, ice tea, juice and snacks will be served. It will be at Southern Oaks Community Center.

For questions, please feel free to contact the Lifeworks Coordinator, Amber Humphries at 210-3250.

Hunter ———

Massage-for-two raffle

Enter to win a service at the Savannah Day Spa.

Bring your special someone to enjoy this relaxing experience Feb. 5 – 12.

The winner will be notified Feb. 13. To sign up visit New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center and the Ken Heller Jr. Community Center

Twister Mania

Right hand on red! It's your favorite party game that tests your balance and flexibility.

With several twister matches going on simultaneously. The event is 4-5 p.m. Feb. 8 at the New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center.

Violators of Military Hoaxes Act receive fines, prison time

Special to The Frontline

Persons making false or misleading statements to families about the death, injury, capture or disappearance of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States during a time of war could be fined, imprisoned, or both.

According to the *Stop Terrorist and Military Hoaxes Act of 2004*, codified at Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1038, it's a criminal offense to convey false or misleading information about the status of a service member during a time of armed conflict.

In addition to fines, violators can face up to five years in jail for the hoax. When serious injury occurs as a result of a hoax, possible jail time increases to 20 years, and life imprisonment is possible for the perpetrator if death occurs as a result of a hoax.

"The section was added by an act of Congress as a direct result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001," said Capt. Anthony Adolph, judge advocate, Headquarters, 3d Military Police Group, Criminal Investigation Division.

According to Lt. Col. Stephanie Stephens, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's staff judge advocate, terrorist hoaxes became an issue shortly after 9-11.

Existing law at that time generally covered fake bomb threats, but did not apply to fake threats of biological or chemical attack, such as anthrax scares.

The proposed "Hoax Act of 2001" was intended to close the gap, but was not passed because it was drafted too broadly. The "Stop Terrorism and Military Hoaxes Act of 2004" includes much of the original basis of the 2001 statute, as well as the additional crime concerning hoaxes related to the status of a military member.

MILITARY HOAXES ACT 2-2-2

Adolph said some individuals belonging to anti-war and anti-government groups may sometimes prey on family members as an act of rebellion to Soldiers actively engaged in conflict and could face stiff penalties if caught providing false information.

"Soldiers and their family members are easy targets for such groups who tend to prey on individuals with loved ones serving in combat," Adolph said. "Victims of this scam should know that in the case of injury notifications, the Soldier will be asked to personally call the family. If unable to do so, the call will come from the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command or the hospital where the Soldier is recovering."

According to Col. Pat Gawkins, CMAOC director, if a Soldier dies in theater or while recovering in a medical facility, a casualty notification officer will make an in-person notification.

"Unfortunately, there have been circumstances beyond our control when we have had to make notifications by telephone," Gawkins said. "These calls are followed up immediately by a Soldier or officer who will extend condolences."

"We have had issues of the Record of Emergency Data (DD93) not having current addresses or incomplete next of kin information which have caused us to make telephonic notification," he added. "In these cases, by simply trying to verify an address, or one next-of-kin calling another while their Casualty Notification Officer was present, we have made notification. Again, this happens in very few cases, but it does happen."

In addition to the personal visit, Adolph said a casualty assistance officer will also provide immediate support for the family member whenever and wherever necessary to help the family through their crisis.

According to Stephens, the 2004 Hoax Act is

meant to not only protect the victims of a hoax, but responders as well.

"The civil action portion of the statute means that in addition to criminal penalties, a person who violates the statute may be required to pay for the cost of any expenses that an emergency response or investigative agency incurs while responding to their hoax," Stephens said. "Hoaxes distract federal, state and local law enforcement criminal investigators and emergency responders from a real crises and threats, resulting in a risk to public safety and national security."

CID special agents recommend if a family member ever receives a call concerning the medical status of their loved ones deployed to a combat zone, they should note the name and telephone number of the caller, if possible, and contact the local casualty office or the American Red Cross to confirm. If the call is determined to be a hoax, immediately report the crime to the local CID office.

CID Lookout is a U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command initiative to partner with the Army community by providing a conduit for members of the Army family, to help prevent, reduce and report felony-level crime.

The USACIDC, commonly known as CID, is an independent criminal investigative organization that investigates serious, felony-level crime such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, arson, fraud, and even cyber crime or intrusions into the Army networks.

Solving and preventing these types of crime cannot be achieved solely by CID special agents and the military police. Together, professional law enforcement officers and the Army community must work hand-in-hand to fight serious crime. As such, CID is "on-point" for the Army and depends heavily on Soldiers, family members and civilian employees to Be On The Lookout and provide assistance in keeping the Army Strong and safe.

CID Lookout provides the latest informa-

tion to the Army community aimed at helping Soldiers protect themselves, their families and to reduce their chances of becoming crime victims.

For more information on CID or to report a felony-level crime or provide information concerning a crime, contact your local CID Office or the Military Police, or visit www.cid.army.mil.

\$1500.00
Reward
(0372-06-CID093-61439)

A reward of \$1500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the Arson which occurred at about 1250, 13 Sep 06 at 6999 Kilay Court, Apartment D, Fort Stewart, GA 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, GA at (912) 767-5030 (POC is SA ZINES), or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, GA (912) 767-4895.

Reward offer expires Nov. 13, 2007.



Chocolate

• Truths, myths and • little white lies

Kay Blakley
DeCA Home Economist

You know there's nothing more romantic than chocolate, don't you?

Even Casanova is said to have been a chocolate devotee, believing it had a positive bearing on his amorous pursuits. Maybe that's one of the reasons why exchanging chocolates on Valentine's Day is still firmly entrenched in our culture today.

But a word of caution to the ladies: If you plan to delight your favorite man with a bouquet of flowers in lieu of a box of chocolates, you might want to perish that thought.

According to the Chocolate Manufacturers Association, a whopping 68 percent of men said they would prefer chocolates over flowers any day.

Purchase those chocolates at the commissary — our dedication to savings of 30 percent or more applies to special treats like fine chocolates, just like it does to everyday items.

"But, wait a minute!" you say. "Doesn't chocolate make you fat?"

Yes, if you eat enough of it — but that holds true for lots of foods.

Does it cause acne, tooth decay, headaches, or make you nervous? Can chocolate pick you up when you're feeling low, help you live longer, or stimulate the libido?

While proof is pretty scant, popular culture is reluctant to give up many of these beliefs.

One of the latest beliefs concerning the virtues of chocolate touts the health properties of flavonoids, which are naturally occurring compounds found in the cocoa plant.

Flavonoids are a hot topic of discussion and research these days, but the scientific establishment has yet to recommend consuming chocolate purely for its health benefits.

It's still a "pure pleasure" food, so moderation is the key.

Choose the highest quality chocolate you can afford and make it the one that pleases your taste buds the best.

If you are a total chocolate addict, periodically visit the Chocolate Manufacturers Association Web site at www.chocolateusa.org to stay up to date on all the latest flavonoid research findings.

While you're there, have a look at some of their quick and easy chocolate recipes, one of which I've slightly altered and copied for you here.

It only takes a few minutes to whip together a batch of Incredible Fudge.

No doubt the name comes from the fact that this recipe requires an incredibly small amount of effort to produce an incredibly delicious treat.

Do try to save it for your sweetheart, but if your cravings get the better of you, sim-

ply give the dog a disgusted look as you pretend to discover the dish totally empty.

When it comes to chocolate, little white lies are sometimes a necessity.

Incredible Fudge

INGREDIENTS

•2 pounds semi-sweet chocolate, chopped (chocolate chips work fine, too)

•1 pint (2 cups) ice cream, slightly thawed*

•1 cup chopped pecans, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Line an 8- or 9-inch square pan with foil and lightly spray with cooking spray.

2. Place chopped chocolate in medium-size, microwave-safe bowl, and microwave on full power for 1 minute and 45 seconds. Stir.

3. Add thawed ice cream and beat, by hand, until smooth. If the coolness

of the ice cream hardens the chocolate, microwave the entire mixture for an additional 30 to 40 seconds, before beating.

4. Stir in nuts. Turn into prepared pan.

5. Refrigerate until firm; cut into squares.

6. Makes about 64 servings. Store, tightly wrapped, at room temperature.

*Use butter pecan, black walnut, mint, Dutch chocolate, anything you like — even vanilla.



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To learn how to apply for a scholarship, visit www.armyrotc.com. Scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2007.

U.S. ARMY



photo provided by Glendive Ranger Review News

Pvt. Matthew Zeimer, 3/69 Armor died Feb. 2 in Ramadi, Iraq from injuries suffered in a firefight in Al Anbar region.

Soldier lost in firefight

Daisy Pleasant Jones

Coastal Courier Staff Writer

The Department of Defense announced Monday the death of Pvt. Matthew Thomas Zeimer, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, who died Feb. 2 in Ramadi, Iraq.

Zeimer, 18, was one of two U.S. soldiers who died from wounds inflicted during a firefight in the volatile region of Al Anbar.

Zeimer entered the Army as a fire support specialist in May 2006.

He was assigned to 3/69th Armor when he arrived at Fort Stewart in December. He deployed with the 1st Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in January.

School officials at Dawson County High School, where he participated in choir and the Jobs for Montana Students Club, are mourning Zeimer's passing.

DCHS principal Bruce Clausen said Zeimer was well mannered and wanted to join the military more than anything else. Clausen said he learned of Zeimer's death Sunday night and offered counseling to students on Monday.

"It's kind of unique. Every now and then you get one of these kids with a passion (for the military)," he said. "That was his goal, that was his passion and that's what he worked toward."

The principal said Zeimer wanted to deploy with his unit to Iraq and said so while at the school in December.

"He was kind of a proud peacock when he was in here. He didn't balk about the opportunity to go to Iraq. He was red, white and blue from the inside out and wanted to do whatever he could to provide service to his country," Clausen said.

Zeimer shared his dream of military life with teacher Patsy Ferco.

"He worked hard to join the military and took the military aptitude tests three or four times to get in because it was so important to him," Ferco said. "He wanted to be a military man. He was gung-ho about serving in Iraq," she said. "That's what I've trained for. This is the mission," Ferco quoted Zeimer saying.

Zeimer's parents, Ned and Janet Seymour, and four siblings, including his twin sister Tonya, live in Glendive.

Jamie Ausk Crisafulli, Glendive Ranger Review, contributed to this story.

NPSP detailed for Fort Stewart, Hunter civilian employees

Kurt Wolfe
Hunter Public Affairs

Town Halls were held for Army civilian employees at both Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield on Jan. 26, to discuss the new government compensation structure known as the National Security Personnel System.

NSPS will eventually replace the existing GS system for most, though not all civilian employees. The system rolls out in increments with about 2000 being affected by spring of 2007. Over 700,000 will eventually be affected.

NSPS is "pay-for-performance," system that provides the Department of Defense with the tools necessary to compensate and reward its most valuable asset, its employees.

The NSPS is being touted as critical to DoD's overall transformation to a "results-oriented, performance-based culture."

According to NSPS's literature, there are three key components to the new structure:

"Accountability—Employees are responsible for their careers and performance. Employee's performance and contributions will pay off through salary increases and bonuses.

Flexibility—NSPS is a simplified and

adaptable management system that places the right people in the right jobs at the right time.

Results—Employees' performance and contribution link to achieving organizational goals and DoD's critical mission."

The new system will eventually replace other pay evaluation systems such as "seniority," and "steps".

It was made clear at the meeting that under the new structure, no civilian employee would receive less than they do currently under the existing GS system.

One concern expressed at the meeting was whether standards such as seniority would be replaced exclusively with subjective judgments made on a supervisory level, or would they be used in concert with other more objective judging standards.

In response, specific objective goals and objectives will be articulated to employees upon whom a supervisory judgment will be made as to their successful execution.

NSPS spokesman Stephen Fluegeman concedes that there will be some adjusting to do. "There are going to be some struggles with NSPS," said Fluegeman. "It is far from perfect. But the GS system isn't perfect. I think it has some real good possibilities. It will probably come under intense scrutiny and intense fire. But

don't let that sway you. Use your own judgment."

Glenda Johnson, secretary to the garrison commander at Hunter Army Airfield was in attendance. "There was a great deal of information to learn," said Johnson. "You really have to go on online to study it more carefully. The meeting was very helpful, though. It answered a number of questions."

Fluegeman acknowledges that there is a huge amount of information to absorb and realizes that this meeting really only scratched the surface.

His goal for this meeting was simple though.

"I would hope employees would recognize that the performance and accomplishment part of the mission is coming to the forefront," said Fluegeman. "The other piece of this is that I would want people to take from the meeting is that NSPC is a good evolution of the existing personnel system."

The Town Hall meeting at the Hunter Club took about an hour and forty-five minutes, though no follow-up questions were asked at the conclusion. More extensive information can be obtained by going to the DoD web page and clicking on "training," and then "NSPS 101," or going directly to www.cpms.osd.mil.



Kurt Wolfe

Hunter Army Airfield civilians attend a briefing on the new NSPS pay system.

Soldiers train on new M-4s

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry fired their newly issued M-4 carbines for the first time Thursday on Fort Stewart.

The Soldiers' objective was to zero, qualify and to practice reflexive fire, to get a feel for their new rifles to be ready for the upcoming deployment, said Capt. Joseph R. Inge Jr., commander of D Co., 1/30 Inf.

"A very practical feature is the collapsible buttstock," Inge said.

"You can adjust it to your arm length, which is a big advantage over the M-16. A small Soldier can handle the M-4 more comfortably that way."

Since the M-4 is shorter than the M-16 it is easier to maneuver inside a vehicle, he added.

Other than the length and the collapsible buttstock, the M-4 does not have any major changes to it, said Sgt. 1st Class Barton Owen. "If you know how to handle an M-16 you can pick up the M-4 and use it with equal efficiency."

Another positive aspect of the M-4 though is, that it seems to be easier to attach ACOG optical sights, night vision scopes, and other equipment — since it has a manufactured rail system built in, said Owen.

Because the M-4 is shorter and lighter it has another advantage over the M-16, said Owen. "It is easier to quick shoot with the M-4. You can lift it up and aim faster. It is a very accurate weapon. So far, I am happy with the results our Soldiers have shown."



Photos by Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

Above: Pvt. Jeremy Windham of D Co., 1/30 Infantry, clears his M-4 after zeroing as Staff Sgt. Kevin Simpson double checks.

Left: Pfc. Larry Parks of D Co. takes aim. The M-4's best feature is the collapsible butt stock, he said. "I can adjust the length of my rifle to make it fit comfortably, which is important to shoot accurately."

Vietnam vet takes flight

Nondice Powell
Hunter Army Airfield

Harris B. Jenkins took the opportunity to "fly" a Blackhawk and an Apache Jan. 31, 2007. As a civilian, though, it wasn't in an actual helicopter. Using the flight simulator at Hunter Army Airfield, Jenkins was able to experience some of what it is to be a pilot.

Jenkins never flew a helicopter during his military career. He did spend part of his career in a helicopter, though. Jenkins served as a door gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 58 Aviation during part of his second rotation in Vietnam. It was during his first rotation and as a door gunner that he developed a love for helicopters.

"That's what you looked forward to hearing," Jenkins said. "That was your best buddy; that was the best thing you could hear."

Jenkins' opportunity to use the flight simulator came after speaking with U.S. Representative Jack Kingston.

"I had talked with Congressman Jack Kingston about just catching a flight," said Jenkins. "Maybe catch a couple of pilots when they were putting in flight time."

Approximately one month passed from the time Jenkins, a medically retired veteran, spoke with Kingston to coming to Hunter. During that time frame, Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Officer Steve Hart contacted Jenkins.

"Mr. Hart said I wouldn't be able to get on a flight and asked if I would like to try the flight simulator," Jenkins said. "That was more than I could hope for."

Jenkins and his wife, Janice, felt this was a great experience, something they will con-

tinue to talk about.

"I think it's the greatest thing since sliced bread," Jenkins said. "Honestly, getting to come here and do this is just, it's...I am just so thrilled to come here and do this, I don't know the words to really say it."

Jenkins' wife added that with the anticipation of this opportunity, he was "like a little boy at Christmas."

He was quick to correct her, though, when she said he would be talking about it for days, saying that it would be more like months. It is an opportunity Jim Hilton, chief of Hunter's flight simulation branch, likes to be able to share with others. He encourages the same opportunity for the spouses of the pilots here.

"I think it's good for the family," Hilton said. "It's a good opportunity for the spouse to have a better understanding of what their husband, or even wife, does."

Jenkins repeatedly expressed his excitement and appreciation for the opportunity.

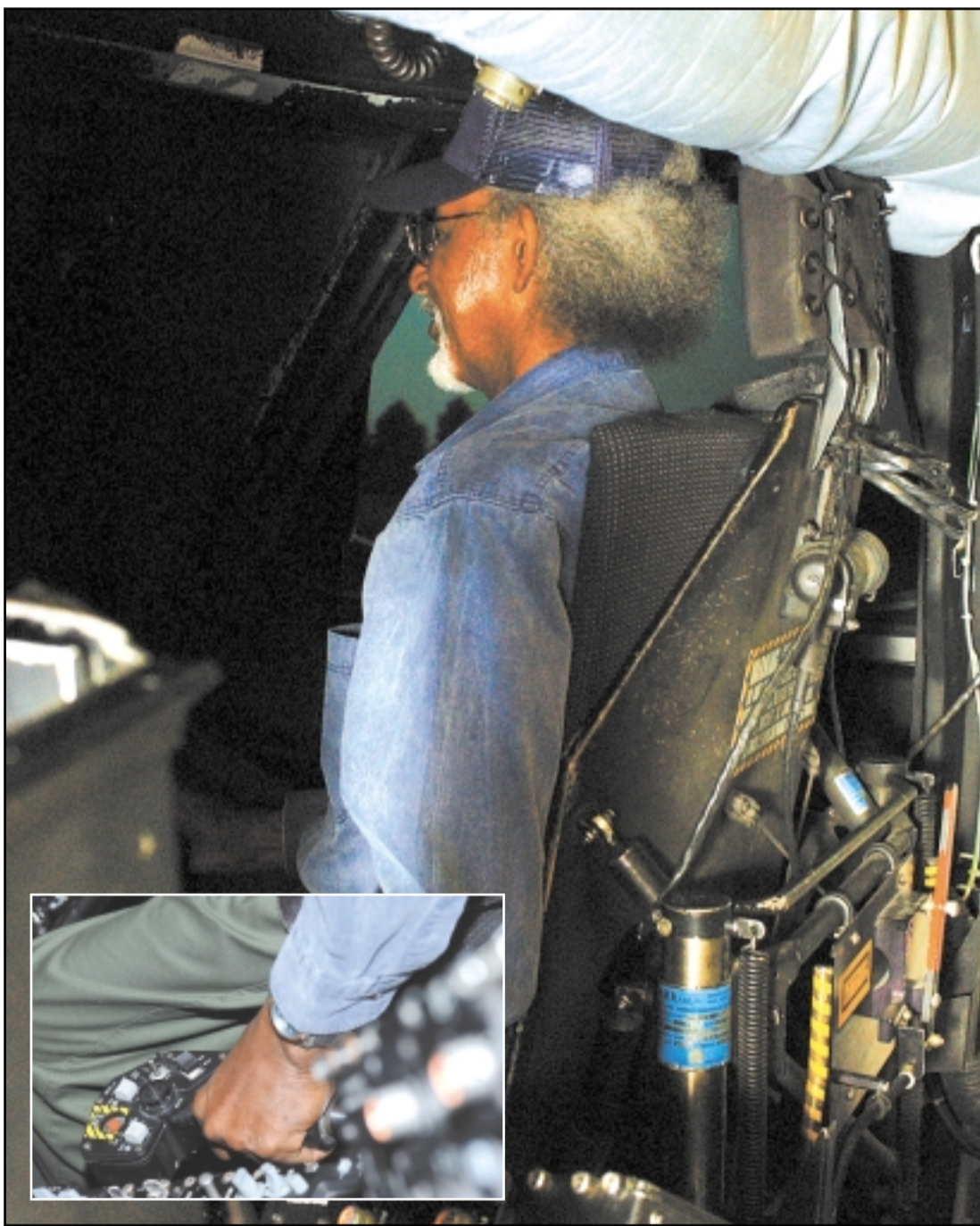
"It was the greatest day in a long time," Jenkins said. "I loved it. I'd like to thank the instructors very much for their time."

Janice Jenkins explained how she feels opportunities to visit military bases and see equipment similar to what they used helps some veterans.

"I think it helps with the morale and depression of some war veterans," Jenkins said. "To be able to do things like this, to see a tank, it can all help."

Just as her husband did, Jenkins repeatedly thanked those involved for this opportunity.

"We really appreciate it," Jenkins said. "I realize that with what's going on right now it's kind of difficult for [the Third Infantry Division] to do that."



Nondice Powell

Harris B. Jenkins, a medically retired Vietnam Veteran, "flies" a Blackhawk at Hunter Army Airfield Jan. 31. Jenkins and his wife, Janice Jenkins, were given the opportunity to experience what it is to be a pilot using the flight simulator.

